

What is claimed is:

1. A method for conditionally capturing hardware scan dump data related to an operational failure of a computer, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a data signal indicative of an error that caused the operational failure of the computer;

searching an error table for a listing of an error type corresponding to the error indicated by the data signal; and

capturing the hardware scan dump data when the error type is listed on the error table.

2. A method for operating a service processor to conditionally capture hardware scan dump data related to an operational failure of a computer, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a data signal indicative of an error that caused the operational failure of the computer;

searching an error table for a listing of an error type corresponding to the error indicated by the data signal;

determining a storing mode of operation of the service processor among an active storing mode of operation, an inactive storing mode of operation, and a reactive storing mode of operation; and

capturing the hardware scan dump data when the error type is listed on the error table and the storing mode of operation is determined to be the reactive storing mode of operation.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

capturing the hardware scan dump data when the storing mode of operation is determined to be the active storing mode of operation.

4. A service processor for conditionally capturing hardware scan dump data related to an operational failure of a computer, said service processor comprising:

a first module operable to receive a data signal indicative of an error that caused the operational failure of the computer;

a storage device storing an error table listing error types that can cause specific operational failures of the computer; and

a second module operable to capture the hardware scan dump when an error type corresponding to the error is listed on the error table.

5. The service processor of claim 4, wherein

said second module is operable to capture the hardware scan dump when an error type corresponding to the error is listed on the error table and said second module is in a reactive storing mode of operation.

6. A service processor for conditionally capturing hardware scan dump data related to an operational failure of a computer, said service processor comprising:

mean for receiving a data signal indicative of an error that caused the operational failure of the computer;

means for searching an error table listing error types that can cause specific operational failures of the computer; and

means for capturing the hardware scan dump when an error type corresponding to the error is listed on the error table.

7. A service processor for conditionally capturing hardware scan dump data related to an operational failure of a computer, said service processor comprising:

means for receiving a data signal indicative of an error that caused the operational failure of said computer;

means for searching an error table listing error types that can cause specific operational failures of said computer; and a

means for determining a storing mode of operation of the service processor among an active storing mode of operation, an inactive storing mode of operation, and a reactive storing mode of operation; and

means for capturing the hardware scan dump data when an error type corresponding to the error is listed on the error table and the storing mode of operation is determined to be the reactive storing mode of operation.

8. The service processor of claim 7, further comprising:

means for capturing the hardware scan dump data when the storing mode of operation is determined to be the active storing mode of operation.

9. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for conditionally capturing hardware scan dump data related to an operational failure of a computer, said computer program product comprising:

computer readable code for receiving a data signal indicative of an error that caused the operational failure of the computer;

computer readable code for searching an error table for a listing of an error type corresponding to the error indicated by the data signal; and

computer readable code for capturing the hardware scan dump data when the error type is listed on the error table.

10. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for conditionally capturing hardware scan dump data related to an operational failure of a computer, said computer program product comprising:

computer readable code for receiving a data signal indicative of an error that caused the operational failure of the computer;

computer readable code for searching an error table for a listing of an error type corresponding to the error indicated by the data signal;

computer readable code for determining a storing mode of operation of the service processor among an active storing mode of operation, an inactive storing mode of operation, and a reactive storing mode of operation; and

computer readable code for capturing the hardware scan dump data when the error type is listed on the error table and the storing mode of operation is determined to be the reactive storing mode of operation.

11. The computer program product of claim 10, further comprising:

computer readable code for capturing the hardware scan dump data when the storing mode of operation is determined to be the active storing mode of operation.

12. A computer, comprising:

a hardware component operable to provide a data signal indicative of an error causing an operational failure of said hardware component; and

a service processor storing an error table listing error types that can cause specific operational failures of said hardware component,

wherein, in response to a reception of said data signal, said service processor is operable to capture hardware scan dump data related to the operational failure when an error type corresponding to the error is listed on the error table.

13. The computer of claim 12, wherein
said hardware component is a central processing unit.

14. The computer of claim 12, wherein
said hardware component is a system memory.

15. The computer of claim 12, wherein
said hardware component is a controller.

16. The computer of claim 12, wherein
in response to a reception of said data signal, said service
processor is operable to capture hardware scan dump data related to the
operational failure when an error type corresponding to the error is listed on the
error table and said service processor is in a reactive storing mode of operation.

17. A computer, comprising:
a hardware component operable to provide a data signal indicative
of an error causing an operational failure of said hardware component; and
a service processor storing an error table listing error types that can
cause specific operational failures of said hardware component,
wherein said service processor includes means for capturing
hardware scan dump data related to the operational failure in response to a
reception of said data signal when an error type corresponding to the error is
listed on the error table.

18. The computer of claim 17, wherein
said hardware component is a central processing unit.

19. The computer of claim 17, wherein
said hardware component is a system memory.

20. The computer of claim 17, wherein
said hardware component is a controller.

21. The computer of claim 17, wherein
in response to a reception of said data signal, said service
processor is operable to capture hardware scan dump data related to the
operational failure when an error type corresponding to the error is listed on the
error table and said service processor is in a reactive storing mode of operation.